

Page 1, after the title of the invention and before the beginning of the first paragraph, please insert the following title:

B1

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, lines 1-6 (first and second paragraphs), please amend these paragraphs as follows:

B2

--The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for checking bank note fitness, in particular for dirt and stains which can impair the service life of the bank notes.

For determining bank note fitness one usually illuminates the bank notes by means of at least one light source and evaluates the diffusely reflected light by means of suitable optical sensors.--

Page 1, lines 19 and 20 (sixth paragraph), please delete in its entirety.

Page 1, between lines 20 and 21 (after the sixth paragraph), please insert the following title:

B3

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, between lines 7 and 8, please insert the following title:

B4

--DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 2, between lines 13 and 14, please insert the following title:

B5

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--